

Docket No. AUS920040177US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

SYSTEM CONFIGURATION AND POLICIES USING SET CONCEPTS

Set theory is used in a policy manager to manage sets of devices, each having multiple attributes, and can be used to evaluate and manage the individual attributes of the devices as groups. Each element of a network to be managed is defined by its attributes and treated as a point in a multi-dimensional space. Policy is expressed as a set of allowable points in the same space and the determination of whether a network complies with a policy is a matter checking to see if the elements exist as members of the set of allowable possibilities. Using this methodology, entire networks can be checked against a policy by determining if the set of points comprising the elements of the network are a subset of the set of allowable points.